SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace paragraph [0023] starting on page 5 of the specification and ending on page 6, with the following amended paragraph:

Some hardware related operations are accessible from the user space via OS user mode application programming interfaces ("APIs") 280. For example, user mode applications can read/write to system memory 110, print to a parallel port, receive input from a keyboard, or read a system time clock. However, user mode applications generally cannot update the system time clock or execute direct PCI accesses. Thus, in one embodiment of the present invention, kernel proxy agent 220 publishes an interface 270 to interface translator 215 to enable pre-boot applications being tested and/or debugged within the emulated pre-boot environment established by pre-boot environment module 210 to execute hardware interactions requiring kernel mode privileges. Providing this level of access enables robust debugging, testing, and verification of a pre-boot application from the user mode of the OS. Furthermore, the user mode of the OS enables deployment of powerful development tool suites for use [[my]] by hardware developers.